

## Hauntings in the Colonial States

83

### *Point Lookout Lighthouse (cont.)*

haunted by a French Soldier of the revolutionary war--he died in this building when it was a makeshift hospital for the wounded. Also, many people have seen the ghost of a sailor, perhaps lost at sea nearby.



### **Hilltop House**

*Rockville, MD*

A mansion with a long and unpleasant history, Hilltop House was built in 1774 by Henry Barrows, a wealthy landowner from Virginia. It was soon discovered that he was using the mansion's remote location and river access to carry on a highly-successful smuggling operation with the British. He was hanged in 1783.

The house was purchased at auction by Lord Norwich, a British expatriate who had fled to America to escape heavy gambling losses. He unfortunately repeated his mistake, losing the deed to the house in a card game, and committed suicide in the front parlor.

Hilltop House's ill-starred reputation continued through its next several occupants: Maddie Fowler murdered her husband in a jealous rage; the Lester family lost four children to scarlet fever in a single night; and Barbara Mitchell and her daughter, Ann, were arrested for conspiring with the Confederate army during the Civil War.

The house's bloody history appears to have tainted it at some point; in about 1863 strange occurrences began to be reported in earnest. The events, which continue to this day, include screams late at night, knocking on the walls, the sounds of a struggle, lights that float in the hallways, and at least one sighting of a "grey man."

Theories vary on the identity of the spirit behind these manifestations, inclu-